

Claims:

part
a10

1. A system comprising:
a server system adapted to produce a custom-store web page for a vendor, the custom-store web page being associated with and for the use of a group other than the vendor, the custom-store web page being constructed using data from a database; and
a custom-store-administrator computer operably connectable to the server system, the custom-store-administrator computer being associated with a custom-store administrator for the group, wherein the custom-store-administrator computer is adapted to provide configuration data to the server system, the server system being adapted to use the configuration data to arrange at least a portion of the custom-store web page for the use of group members, the configuration data being stored in the database.
2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the server system produces multiple custom web pages for the use of different groups.
3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the configuration data is stored in the database in a different form than the configuration database that is received by the server system from the custom-store-administrator computer.
4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the server system produces an administration web page for the use of an external administrator to modify the custom pages and produce the configuration data.
5. The system of Claim 4, in which the modifications are done without vendor input.

6. The system of Claim 4, in which the modifications to the custom page are done automatically.

7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the configuration data allows the creation of virtual bundles of products for purchase from the custom web page.

8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the configuration data allows the prevention of the selection of certain products by group members from the custom web page.

9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the configuration data affects the product display.

sub 10 10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the configuration data affects the custom store web page product display order.

11. The system of Claim 12, wherein the custom store is based upon the main store.

12. The system of Claim 11, wherein the custom web page uses data and images from the main web store.

13. The system of Claim 11, wherein the custom store web page has a similar look and feel to the main web store.

14. The system of Claim 1, further comprising instantiation software used to set up the custom web page.

15. The system of Claim 1, wherein the custom store web software at the server system constructs a specific custom store using custom store I.D. information in the URL sent from a group member.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the custom store software at the server system checks the referrer URL to determine that the user is coming from the correct secure location.

17. The system of Claim 1, wherein the group comprises an institution.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the group comprises a college or university.

19. The system of Claim 1, wherein the production of the custom store web page includes dynamically calculating discounts for products.

20. The system of Claim 1, wherein the database stores the base prices for products as well as associated discounts.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein the base prices are used for a main store web site.

22. The system of Claim 20, in which discount tiers are associated with each custom store web page.

Aut a10 23. The system of Claim 1, further comprising reconciliation software at the server system which checks the configurations of the custom store web pages for obsolete products.

24. The system of Claim 23, wherein the reconciliation software automatically E-mails notices to the external administrator to notify the external administrator of any obsolete products on the custom store web page.

25. The system of Claim 1, wherein the server system comprises a web server and an application server.

26. A computer-readable medium containing a program which executes the following procedure:

as a result of web-page configuration data sent from an custom-store-administrator computer, storing configuration data in a database, the custom-store-administrator computer being associated with a custom-store administrator for a group other than the vendor, the configuration data being usable to arrange at least a portion of a vendor's custom-store web page for the use of group members; and producing the custom-store web page for a group member, the custom-store web page being constructed using data from the database, the data including the configuration data .

27. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the program further includes the setting up of multiple customs to a web page for different groups.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, further comprising the production of an administration web page that allows the external administrator to modify the custom pages.

29. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the custom store administrator allows the creation of virtual bundles of products for sale using the custom store web page.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the virtual bundles are shown as a recommended system on a main store web page.

31. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the configuration data prevents the selection of certain products by group members at the custom web page.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the configuration data concerns the product display on the custom store web page.

33. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the custom store web page is based upon a main store web page.

34. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, further comprising using instantiation software at a server system.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the custom store software constructs the custom store using an I.D. information field in the URL sent by the group member.

36. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, further comprising checking a referrer URL before the construction of the custom store web page.

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the group comprises an institution.

38. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the construction of the custom store web pages discounts for products is dynamically calculated.

Int 2.10 39. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, further comprising reviewing the data in the database to determine whether parts which have become obsolete need to be modified at each of the custom stores.

40. The computer-readable medium of claim 39, further comprising producing an E-mail notification to the administrator, notifying the administrator of changes that need to be made at the custom store web page.

Int 2.10 41. A method comprising:
as a result of web-page configuration data sent from a custom-store-administrator computer,
storing configuration data in a database, the custom-store-administrator computer being associated with a custom-store administrator for a group other than the vendor, the configuration data being usable to arrange at least a portion of a vendor's custom-store web page for the use of group members; and
producing the custom-store web page for a group member, the custom-store web page being constructed using data from the database, the data including the configuration data.

42. The method of Claim 41, wherein the multiple custom store web pages are created for different groups.

43. The method of Claim 41, wherein the configuration data stored in the database is modified from the configuration data produced by the custom-store-administrator computer.

44. The method of Claim 41, further comprising producing an administration web page to allow the administrator to modify the custom store web pages.

45. The method of Claim 41, wherein the configuration data indicates virtual bundles of products to be sold at the custom store web page.

46. The method of Claim 41, wherein the configuration data prevents the selection of certain products by group members at the custom store web page.

47. The method of Claim 41, wherein the configuration data affects the product display at the custom store web page.

48. The method of Claim 41, wherein the custom store is based upon a main store web page.

49. The method of Claim 41, further comprising setting up the custom store web page with instantiation data.

50. The method of Claim 41, wherein the custom store software constructs the custom store using I.D. information in the URL for the custom store.

51. The method of Claim 50, wherein the system checks the referrer URL to ensure that the custom store web page is being reached by a secure web page maintained by the group.

52. The method of Claim 41, wherein the group comprises an institution.

53. The method of Claim 41, wherein the custom store web pages includes dynamically calculating discounts for products sold at the web page.

54. The method of Claim 41, wherein the configuration data for the custom store web page is checked by reconciliation software to determine whether obsolete products are offered at the custom store web page.

55. The method of Claim 54, wherein E-mail notifications are sent to the administrator if obsolete products are found at the custom store web page by the reconciliation software.

56. An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving configuration data sent from an custom-store-administrator computer and for storing the configuration data in a database, the custom-store-administrator computer being associated with a custom-store administrator for a group other than the vendor, the configuration data being usable to arrange at least a portion of a vendor's custom-store web page for the use of group members; and

means for producing the custom-store web page for a group member, the custom-store web page being constructed using data from the database, the data ~~including the configuration data.~~

57. The apparatus of Claim 56 wherein multiple custom web stores are created for multiple groups.

58. The apparatus of Claim 56 wherein configuration data is stored in the database in a modified form from the configuration data as received by the apparatus.

59. The apparatus of Claim 56 wherein the apparatus includes means for creation of an administration web page to allow the external administrator to modify ~~custom pages.~~

60. The apparatus of Claim 56 wherein the configuration data includes data concerning virtual bundles of products which are offered for sale at the custom store web page.

61. The apparatus of Claim 56 wherein the configuration data includes data which prevents the selection of products by group members at the custom store web page.

62. The apparatus of Claim 56 wherein the configuration data includes data which affects the product display at the custom store web page.

63. The apparatus of Claim 56 wherein the custom store web page is based upon a main custom store web page.

64. The apparatus of Claim 56 further comprising instantiation means to produce custom store web page data to set up the custom store web page.

65. The apparatus of Claim 56 wherein custom store software is used to construct the custom store web page using I.D. information in the URL provided by the group member.

66. The apparatus of Claim 65 in which the apparatus checks the referrer URL to determine whether to provide the custom store web page to the user.

67. The apparatus of Claim 56 wherein the group comprises an institution.

68. The apparatus of Claim 56 wherein the custom store web page includes dynamically calculated discounts for products.

Amended 69. The apparatus of Claim 56 further comprising reconciliation software to examine the configuration data to determine whether obsolete products are offered at custom store web pages.

70. The apparatus of Claim 69 further comprising means to send E-mail notifications to administrators if obsolete products are offered for sale at the custom store web page.

71. The apparatus of Claim 56 wherein the apparatus comprises a server system.

72. The apparatus of Claim 71 wherein the server system comprises a web server and an application server.